



Washington Weekly

July 07, 2006



13TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN

U.S. Congresswoman
CAROLYN CHEEKS KILPATRICK

This E-Newsletter is a weekly summary of the events taking place in the United States Congress that affect the State of Michigan and primarily Michigan's 13th Congressional District.

A printable version of this E-Newsletter will also be available on my website www.house.gov/kilpatrick

Legislative Action From the Week of 6/30/06

H.R. 4973, the Flood Insurance Reform and Modernization Act

H. Res. 895, the Terrorist Finance Tracking Program Resolution

H.R. 4761, the Deep Ocean Energy Resources Act

H.R. 5672, the Science-State-Justice-Commerce Appropriations Bill for FY 2007

In the District

Congresswoman Kilpatrick Celebrates Completion of the Bates Street Outfall

Hill Highlights

Legislative Action From the Week Ending 6/30/06

H.R. 4973, the Flood Insurance Reform and Modernization Act

The bill will increase the amount of money the federal flood insurance program can borrow in order to pay the level of claims resulting from hurricanes Katrina and Rita to \$25 billion. It also increases the current limit on coverage that may be bought by homeowners and businesses and increases the fines on financial institutions that do not enforce flood insurance purchasing requirements by property buyers in certain areas subject to flooding. The measure raises NFIP coverage limits for residential properties from \$250,000 to \$335,000, for residential contents from \$100,000 to \$135,000, and for non-residential properties from \$500,000 to \$670,000. It authorizes FEMA to increase flood insurance premiums up to 15% annually on all properties and phases out subsidized premium rates for vacation homes, second homes, and non-residential properties. The bill provides a new \$1,000 living expense payment for policyholders after a flood, allows NFIP to offer additional residential coverage for basement protection, and allows commercial policyholders to purchase business interruption coverage. It also reduces the waiting period before the effective date of flood insurance from 30 to 15 days. I voted in support of this bill, which passed the House by a vote of 416 to 4.

H. Res. 895, the Terrorist Finance Tracking Program Resolution

This resolution expresses support of efforts to identify, track, and pursue suspected foreign terrorists and their financial supporters by tracking the flow of money that supports their activities. It states that the terrorist finance tracking program has been conducted in accordance with all applicable laws, regulations, and executive orders. It further states that Congress has been appropriately consulted during the program's life and that it will continue its oversight responsibilities. The measure condemns the individuals responsible for the unauthorized disclosure of classified information and expresses concern that the disclosure may endanger the lives of American citizens. Additionally, the resolution expects that all news media organizations will cooperate in protecting the lives of American citizens and the capability of the government to identify, disrupt, and

Helpful Resources

[Kilpatrick's Annual Report to Michigan's 13th Congressional District](#)

Printable newsletter for 2006

[Directory of Homeownership Assistance in the Detroit Area](#)

Printable booklet of homeownership resources.

[Medicare's New Prescription Drug Plans](#)

Printable handout with important facts to help you understand the program.

[Energy Saving](#)

Brief compilation of tips and tricks to help your energy efficiency in both your home and on the road.

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pecting the lives of American citizens and the capability of the government to identify, disrupt, and capture terrorists by not disclosing classified intelligence programs, such as the terrorist finance tracking program. I voted against this measure, which passed by a vote of 227 to 183.

H.R. 4761, the Deep Ocean Energy Resources Act

This bill would end a 25-year federal ban on offshore drilling for oil and natural gas on a portion of the outer continental shelf. It creates the opportunity for drilling as close as 50 miles off the coastline. States could pass legislation to continue the ban 50 to 100 miles off their shores, provided state legislatures and their governors can reach agreement within one year of the bill's passage, otherwise the Department of the Interior would be allowed to begin granting leases within 50 to 100 miles of the coastline. Areas 100 miles and beyond would be completely open to drilling and under federal control. The measure requires current leaseholders to agree to pay royalties if the price of fuel rises above a designated threshold or to pay fees based on their production. In addition, this bill changes the funding ratio between states and the federal government on this money generated by leasing and drilling activities, reducing the federal portion and granting a greater share to those few states willing to drill. Currently, royalty payments to the government make up the second largest funding stream to the federal treasury, next to personal income taxes. The Interior Department estimates that this bill will add about \$70 billion to the national debt over the next 15 years should it become law. I voted against this measure, which passed the House by a vote of 232 to 187. You can read my official statement on H.R. 4761 and reasons supporting my vote on my website at www.house.gov/kilpatrick

H.R. 5672, the Science-State-Justice-Commerce Appropriations Bill for FY 2007

The bill will provide \$59.8 billion in funding for the NASA, the State Department, the Commerce Department, and the Department of Justice and other related agencies. It provides \$1.6 billion more than the FY 06 spending bill and \$137 million more than the President requested. The measure provides \$2.6 billion for assistance to state and local law enforcement for crime fighting initiatives and \$633 million for the Edward J. Byrne Justice Assistance grants program, which the President wanted to eliminate. It also provides \$16.7 billion for NASA, an increase of \$462 million over FY 06, and \$6 billion for the Commerce Department. Funding for the Legal Services Corporation (LSC) was increased by \$25 million, bringing the total to \$314 million. In addition, the bill contains language that prohibits restoring diplomatic relations with Libya until the country pays its \$2 million debt to the surviving families of victims of

1610 Longworth HOB
Washington D.C. 20515
(202) 225-2261
(202) 225-5730 fax

1274 Library St.,
Suite 1-B
Detroit, MI 48226
(313) 965-9004
(313) 965-9006 fax

3005 Biddle St.,
Room A
Wyandotte, MI 48192
(734) 246-0780
(734) 246-1148 fax

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matic relations with Libya until the country pays its \$2 million debt to the surviving families of victims of the 1988 bombing of Pan Am Flight 103. I voted in support of this measure, which passed the House by a vote of 393 to 23.

To read more about these measures, or any other legislation, please visit the Library of Congress' legislative information site at <http://thomas.loc.gov/>.

In the District

Congresswoman Kilpatrick Celebrates Completion of the Bates Street Outfall

Congresswoman Kilpatrick recently joined city and government officials and community leaders in celebrating the completion of the Bates Street Outfall. The project includes the repair of the City of Detroit's Combined Sewage Outflow (CSO) system and construction of a 220-foot walkway atop the system, which connects the existing riverfront walkways on the east and west of the CSO, bridging the gap and permitting the public to walk from Joe Louis Arena to the GM Headquarters' promenade. Congresswoman Kilpatrick expressed enthusiasm about the future impact of the project. "This initiative is one of many that make Detroit a wonderful place to live, work, play, and visit. It allows the City to provide greater community access to the riverfront. It also enhances our ability to expand the scope and number of recreational, cultural, and community programs available to residents, families, and visitors," said Congresswoman Kilpatrick. "I am proud to be involved in efforts to beautify our riverfront areas, protect our waterways, and strengthen our community. Together, we will build stronger families, a stronger Detroit, and a stronger region."

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